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TORCH

Patent Number:

JP62240170

Publication date:

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Inventor(s):

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Applicant(s)::

- AKIRA KANEKAWA

Requested Patent:

_ JP62240170

Application Number: JP19860084835 19860411

Priority Number(s):

IPC Classification:

B23K9/26; H05H1/32

EC Classification:

Equivalents:

Abstract

PURPOSE:To prevent an electrode from burning and to prolong the service life of a nozzle by providing a clearance between an insertion hole of the electrode and the electrode and making the clearance a duct of working gas.

CONSTITUTION:Plural peripheral grooves 4 are provided in the longitudinal direction to an inwall of the insertion hole 3 where the electrode 2 of a torch main body 1 is loaded. Then, these peripheral grooves are used as the ducts of the working gas supplied from a pipe 5 and the working gas is blown out along the periphery of the electrode 2. Accordingly, since the electrode 2 is kept in a cooled state at all times, the abnormal temperature-up is controlled and the electrode 2 can be prevented from burning even if it is used for hours continuously. As a result, the stable plasma spraying is always performed and the service life of the nozzle can be prolonged to about five times longer than the usual one.

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審査請求 未請求 発明の数 1 (全7頁)

砂発明の名称

②特 昭61-84835

御出 昭61(1986)4月11日

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定明の名称

2 特許請求の範囲

- 1. ブラズマ切断装置において、トーチ木体に 設りられた電極線を装填する抑入孔と、紡電 掻握との間にプラズマ化させるべき作動ガス の皮路としての間限を設けたことを特徴とす むトーチ。
- 2. 間除は、挿人孔の内壁に設けられた器によ って構成されるものである特許請求の範囲第 1項記載のトーナ。
- 3. 間隙は、戦極後の発璧に設けられた漢によ って構成されるものである特許請求の範囲祭 1 頃記載の1-4.
- 4. 開節は、挿入孔及び電極棒に設けられた溝 によって構成されるものである特許研求の絶 明年1項記載のトーナ。

発明の詳細な説明

産業上の利用分野

本処別は、プラズマ切断機における切断用トー ナの改良に関するものである。

(1) 従来の技術・

従来、プラズマ切断には作動ガスとして奇巣や アルゴンなどが使用されていたが、これらは高価 であることと推持・哲理に手段がかかり、また、 ガス爪の設定や作業難旋の設定を微妙に砌盤しな ければならず、かなりの無様が必要であった。

この点に描み、近時作動がスとして近縮エアー を利用したプラズマ切断装置が開発され、作業性 の限職的な向上が図れるようになった。このエア ープラズマ切断機は、摩物の切断が出来ないもの の(20m程度以上)一般的に利用されているエア - コンプレッサーを作動がスの供給源としている ので安全であるし、取り扱いが揺めて容易となる 利点がある。とりわけ、世袋金物に利用される花 物のステンレス間・アルミニカム・真論或いは自

> Ref. #13 TDTD 10465.1 K. Horner-Richardson 09/821,868

動車用の鉄板などの切断には、切断幅が小さくて ドロスの発生が少なく、また、被工作物の熱収縮 が小さいので、近がほとんど発生せず経過である。 勿論、この他板金やプレス加工後の後処理や系統 の金配を和み合わせたものの切断などあられて手軽 成の孔間けや切断加工の分野において極めて手軽 に使用することができ、その用途は翌しく広い。

また、このエアープラズマ切断機は極めて知い 切断幅で観利な精密切断ができ、後加工を最小限 に加えることを特徴としている関係上、切断箇所 「11枚しながら作業できるようにヘッド部分、枠 ・ アルの先輪部分が和く構成されている。

· 全朝が解決しようとする問題点 - 2.し、エアープラズマ切断は耐速した如く種 への冷却方法を採り入れることにより連続使用可能としているものの、現実には稼働率が約40~50 対に過ぎないものであった。つまり、切断作業時において、ノズルが西温度のブラスマを暗射するときの熱及び被加工物からの反射語さらにはなら、その先端部分が徐々に使用するため、知知である。特に、厚切を切断する場合にはスペックーやドロスの吹き返しが激しく、ノズルのみならず保護キャップまで娩出することがあった。

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自動がスを施収させるなど、トーチの冷却方法を むらしたことにより実質的な稼働中を90%以上ま で向上させるに至った。

何 問題を解決するための手段

そこで本発明者は概念研究の結果、電極体を装 ほするトーチ本体の挿入孔と接電極線との間に間 校を設け、この間接を作動ガスの液路としたトーチを開発した。 つまり、 本発明に採るトーチは発 抵律の外周部をプラスマ 化させる作動ガスの流路 としたことにより、 電極波のみならずトーチ内部 の昇退を抑制し、 ひいてはトーチ全体の冷却効果 を高めることを最大の目的としたものである。

商、本明和四中でいうトーチ本体とは、これに 電極 や ペパッフル さらに保護キャップ 電極 を 取り付けてトーチを 構成するものであって、 い で を 取り付けてトーチを 構成する ものであって、 の な か つ な に か の な か ら か の な か ら か の な が ら か の な な が な と な 人 た も の の な が ら か な な し な な な な の 内 型 に ぶ や で な む ひ で ん で な で な で な で で で で が な と に よ り 波 加 工 と で い す で な ま 成 い は アルゴン等のもの を い う 。

(e) 11: [[]

本発明に保るトーチは、最も最高を発生する即位である電極権さらにはトーチ内部の冷却を行なわしめることを目的としたものであって、トーチ全体の昇温抑制作用及びプラズマの安定哨害を図ることを可能としたものである。

(1) 发展网

以下、本発明を図面に示す実施例に基づいて。詳 相に説明する。

従来のトーチ本体(II) は第2回に示すように電 構修(2)の挿入孔間の周りに複数の孔(0)…を設ける

ことによってパイプのからの作動がスの波路とし ていたが、これは単なる作動ガスの通り路でしか 過ぎないものであって、唯構枠凶には何等の影響 も及ぼさないものであった。従って、本発明に係 るトーチ本体川を用いることにより、勇3図に示 すように作動ガスが電極複四の周囲に沿って流れ ることとなるので、電板停口が常時冷却されてい る状態を保つことが可能となった。また、従来の トーチ本体(1)。に設けた孔(6)…は約1個程度設け たに過ぎず、しかもその役が約0)=程度であっ たものを木実施例のようにもの数も2倍の8間と し、見つ径を 01.5 w程度に大きくしたことによ って、粗価格のの冷却はもとよりトーチ (T) 全 体の冷却効果も飛騨的に向上させることができる 結果となった。尚、図中(10)はノズル、(11)は保 援キャップ、 (i2) はパッフルである。

本実施例に示す電板で20は、木体駅部のの両端 に電極部分を設けたものであって、一方が消耗し でも、ひっくり返して装塡することにより、もう 一方の電極部分が新たに使用できるようにしてい

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尚、 電物値切の形状は本実施例に限定するものではなく、 乳 4 例に示すように電極部分を一方にのみ設けたものでも当然よい。 この場合においても作動ガスと接触する面積を大きくするためにはできるだけ長くした方が好ましい。

邪 5 図は不見明の他の実施例を示すもので、14

人礼師の問題には螺旋状の周濱州を設けたものである。これも南実施例と同様に電極棒側の周囲に沿って作動がスが遊れることとなって、同等の冷却効果を得ることが可能となる。

電極枠四及び挿入孔間の両方に渦等を設ける場合には、一方を円間方向に設ければ他方を経済や 鍵旋滴とすることによって作動が2の旋路とすれ ばよいが、例えば第9回に示すようにすれば両者 共川周方向に設けても作動がスの波路を形成する ことが可能となる。

第10回は本発明のさらに他の実施例を示すもので、挿入孔間には周海側…を設けずに電極機ののみに消傷…を設けて作動がスの旋路としたものである。この場合においても突部側がフィンの役目をすることとなるため、前送した実施側と実質的にはは同一の効果を有する。また、海岬…は経過だけでなく環境満としてもよく、受は作動がスの流路としての機能を有するものであればよい。

第11図は本発明のさらに他の実施例を示すもので、作動ガスの波路としての間除を形成するべくは人们の内型に突起(13)を投けたものである。この突起(13)によって間接を形成するという意味においては第12図に示すように組長権(2)の関係のに突起(13)を投けるようにしてもよい。勿論、乱慢権(2)と挿入几句の両者に突起(13)…を設けるようにしてもよい。

(6) 発明の効果

以上のように本発明に係るトーチは、崔楠裕の 周囲に沿って作動ガスを供給させる構造としたこ とにより、電腦枠の異常な昇温を即割することが 可能となった。従って、長時間連続して作業を行 っても電極格が追りることなく、常に安定したブ ラズマを噴射できるので、彼加工物の切断面が荒っ れることなく後加工にかける手間を大幅に削減す ることが可能となった。本発明者の行なった実験 によっても電極棒の先端部は従来では如穴状に広 がっていたものが、本発明品を使用することによ って、その先端部の穴が扬めて小さくなると共に プラズマが常に集中して発射でき、しかも超極棒 の寿命が延びるという良好な粘果が得られた。モ してさらには、トーチ内部の昇温をも抑制するこ とからトーチ全体の冷却効果を再めることができ る結果、ノズルの方命も従来のものより約5倍に もなるという極めて存益な効果を行するものであ

1 1

4 図面の簡単な説明

第1 図は本発明に係るトーチにおけるトーチ末体の一実施例を示す斜視図、第2 図はトーチ末体の従来例を示す斜視図、第3 図は本発明に係るトーチの使用状態を示す断面図、第4 図は本発明の他の実施例を示す断面図、第5 図乃至第8 図のをの実施例を示す断面図、第6 図乃至第8 図の大々木発明のさらに他の実施例を示す斜視図、第9 図及び第10図は大々末発明のさらに他の実施例を示すに他の実施例を示すいる。第112図はトーチ末体のさらに他の実施例を示す・部を切り欠いた斜視図である。

T h - #

1 …… トーチ本体

2 …… 危情特

3 …… 挿入孔

4 --- -- 周海

5 --- パイテ

6 ··· ·· AL

1 2

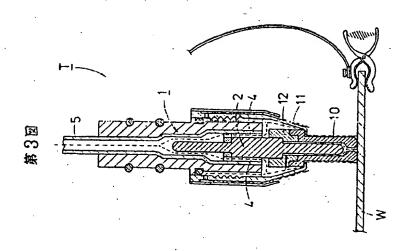
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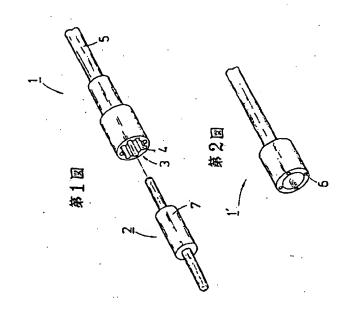
9 ……突翖

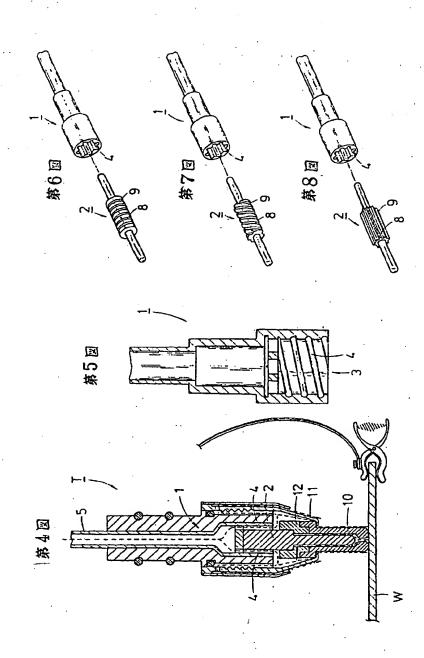
13……突起

好 野 山 助 人 代 理 人 4 m + 金川昭



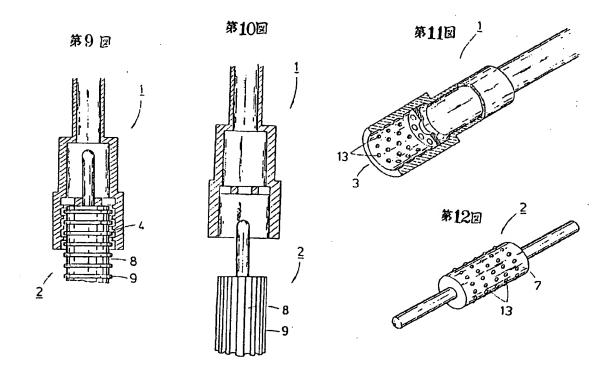






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(54) Title of Invention:

Torch

(21) Patent Application No.: Sho 61 (1986)-84835

(22) Date of Application:

April 11, 1986 (Showa 61)

(72) Inventor:

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(71) Applicant: (74) Agent:

Hisaki Nagata, Patent Attorney

SPECIFICATIONS

1 Title of Invention

Torch

2 Claims

- 1. A torch for a plasma cutter, which has the following characteristic features. A gap is created between the bore in the torch main body for inserting an electrode and the said electrode. The gap is used as the flow path of a working gas which is to be transformed to a plasma.
- 2. The torch described in Claim 1, in which the gap is created by grooves made on the inner surface of the electrode insertion bore.
- 3. The torch described in Claim 1, in which the gap is created by grooves made on the outer surface of the electrode.
- 4. The torch described in Claim 1, in which the gap is created by grooves made on the surfaces of the insertion bore and the electrode.

3 Detailed Description of Invention

(a) Technical Area of Invention

This invention pertains to the improvements of a cutting torch in a plasma cutter.

(b) Existing Technol gy

In the conventional plasma cutting, however, a gas such as nitrogen and argon has been used as the working gas, but these gases are expensive and the use of these gases requires careful maintenance and control as well as considerable skills for delicate adjustments in setting the gas pressure and the working current.

To resolve such difficulties, a plasma cutter utilizing compressed air as the working gas was recently developed and the operating efficiency was greatly improved. That is, while such air plasma cutter is incapable of cutting thick (more than about 20 mm) pieces, it uses a common air compressor as the source of the working gas, making its handling much simpler. Therefore, it is particularly well suited for cutting thin pieces of stainless steel, aluminum, and brass used for building hardwares and steel plates used for automobiles because it yields the small cutting width, the reduced dross and little thermal contraction of work pieces. The air plasma cutter can be used quite handily in all areas involving boring or cutting of metals including post heat treatment of press worked sheet metals and cutting of pieces made of two different metals. Therefore, its uses are enormous.

One of the characteristic features of the air plasma cutting process is its capability of sharp and precise cutting with a very small cutting width, thus minimizing the post cutting treatment. Therefore, attempts have been made to construct the torch head, the tip of the nozzle in particular, as slender as possible so that the cutting operations can be made visually observing the cutting points.

In addition, in the plasma cutting, the extremely hot plasma is generated and the torch head must be cooled. There are two types of systems for such cooling; the water-cooling type in which cooling water is circulated in the nozzle or the air-cooling type in which part of compressed air supplied as the working gas is used for cooling.

(c) Problems To Be Resolved by Invention

The air plasma cutting, as described above, withstands a long, continuous operation when one of the cooling methods is adopted. In practice, however, its rate of operation is only 40 - 50 %. That is, during the cutting operation, the nozzle tip is gradually burned because of the heat of injection of the high temperature plasma, the heat reflected from the work piece, and the deposit of melted dross and spatters, and thus the operation must be interrupted frequently for cooling. When cutting a thick piece in particular, the deposit of the spatters and the dross are so severe that the burning takes place not only in the nozzle but also in the cap protecting the nozzle.

To resolve such problems, the inventor of this patent has made various improvements such as providing recesses such as countersinks on the plasma injection opening of the nozzle or forming a tapered surface near the nozzle tip to place the plasma injection opening at this portion. With these improvements, it became possible to prevent the clogging of the plasma injection opening due to the deposit of spatters and to reduce the absorption of the heat reflected from the work piece, and the operation efficiency was increased greatly. In addition, by improving the torch cooling method with the circulation of the working gas in the protection cap covering the torch tip, the operation rate in practice was increased to 90 % or higher.

These improvements, however, are all made within the nozzle of the torch or its protection cap, and the torch is still far from perfect. That is, the torch interior where the plasma is generated remains at a high temperature, resulting in a shortcoming that the proper plasma is not generated and subtle changes in the cutting conditions occur.

Another shortcoming is that, after a long operation, the plasma generated near the tip of the electrode loses its stability in concentration and scatters around, reducing the life of the tip and adversely affecting the nozzle.

(d) Means for Resolving Problems

The inventor of the present patent, after long and dedicated efforts, has successfully developed a torch in which a gap is created between the electrode inserting bore in the torch main body and the electrode, and this gap is used as the flow path for the working gas. In other words, the primary objective of the torch of this invention is to control the temperature increase of the electrode and the torch interior and thus to increase the cooling efficiency of the entire torch.

Note that, in the present specifications, the torch main body designates the torch assembly consisting of the electrode, the baffle, the nozzle, and the protecting cap. The torch assembly is equipped with the flow path for the working gas supplied from the working gas source. It may be electrically conductive so as to also function as the current lead wire to the electrode or alternatively an electrical connection may be separately provided. The gap designates the spaces created by the grooves or the protrusions provided on the outer surface of the electrode and/or on the inner surface of the electrode insertion bore. The working gas designates the gas which is injected as the plasma for cutting work pieces. Compressed air, nitrogen, and argon are among such working gases.

(e) Effects

The torch of this invention is intended for cooling the electrode, where the highest temperature is generated, and the torch interior. With this invention, the control of the temperature elevation of the entire torch and the stable injection of the plasma became possible.

(f) Embodiments of Invention

In the following, the torch of this invention is explained in detail referring to its embodiments illustrated in the drawings.

Figure 1 is a sketch of an embodiment of the torch main body (1) in the torch (T) of the present invention. Multiple longitudinal grooves (4) are provided on the inner wall of the electrode (2) inserting bore (3) to create the gap used as the flow path for the working gas. The working gas supplied from the pipe (5) is injected along the outer surface of electrode (2) inserted in the bore (3) with these grooves (4) as its flow path.

In the conventional torch main body (1') shown in Fig. 2, multiple longitudinal holes (6) are provided in the wall of the electrode (2) insertion bore (3) as the flow path for the working gas supplied from the pipe (5). These holes (6), however, merely serve as the flow paths for the working gas, and have no influence on the electrode (2) at all. In the torch main body (1) of the present invention, on the other hand, the electrode (2) can be constantly being cooled because the working gas flows along the outer surface of the electrode (2), as shown in Fig. 3. The number of the holes (6) in the wall of the conventional torch main body (1') is only about four, and diameter of these holes is about 1 mm. In the embodiment of the present invention, the number of the grooves (4) is doubled to eight, and the diameter is increased to about 1.5 mm, thus yielding the greatly improved cooling effect not only for the electrode (2) but also for the entire torch (T). In Fig. 3, (10) is the nozzle, (11) is the protecting cap, and (12) is the

baffle.

In this embodiment, the electric poles are provided at the both ends of the main body (7) of the electrode (2), and when the pole at one end is consumed, the electrode (2) is turned upside down to provide a fresh pole. The pole portions are longer than those of the conventional electrode so as to be fitted in the slender nozzle (10). The slender nozzle (10) is suited for cutting to be made in a tight spot or cutting a work piece made of a corrugated sheet. Also the heat from the cutting zone does not remain stagnant, and the heat is not readily transferred by conduction to the entire torch (T). The better visibility at the cutting point is beneficial in most cutting operations. When the electrode (2) with the long poles at both ends is used in the conventional torch main body (1'), it cannot be inserted without cutting off one of the poles. In the torch (T) of this invention, the depth of the electrode insertion bore (3) in the torch main body (1) is increased so that even such longer electrode (2) can be inserted as readily as the conventional short electrode.

The shape of the electrode (2) is not limited to that of this embodiment. The electrode with the pole at one end only, as shown in Fig. 4, may be used. Even for such electrode, the longer, the better to increase the surface area in contact with the working gas.

Figure 5 shows an alternative embodiment of this invention in which a spiral circumferential groove (4) is provided on the inner wall of the electrode insertion bore (3). As in the case of the first embodiment, the working gas flows along the outer surface of the electrode (2), resulting in the same degree-of cooling effect.

Here, to improve the cooling effect further, multiple circumferential grooves (8) are made on the main body (7) of the electrode (2), as shown in Fig. 6. That is, the ridges (9) formed between the grooves (8) function as fins to increase the heat radiation effect of the electrode (2), and the surface area in contact with the working gas is also increased. In addition, the longitudinal grooves (4) on the inner wall of the bore (3) and the circumferential grooves (8) on the electrode are arranged perpendicular to each other, and the working gas remains in these spaces. Thus the cooling effect is further increased. The circumferential grooves (8) may be replaced by a spiral groove like a screw thread, as shown in Fig. 7, or by the longitudinal grooves, as shown in Fig. 8. The same degree of cooling effect is obtained from any of them.

When the grooves are made on both the electrode (2) and the bore (3), it may be preferable to make one of them circumferential and the other longitudinal or spiral as the path of the working gas. However, if it is constructed as shown in Fig. 9, the grooves on the both surfaces may be circumferential to provide the flow path for the working gas.

Figure 10 illustrates other alternative embodiment of this invention, in which no circumferential grooves (4) are made on the inner wall of the bore (3) and the longitudinal grooves (8) are made on the electrode (2) only as the flow path for the working gas. In this embodiment, the ridges (9) again function as fins, and essentially the same degree of cooling effect as that of the preceding embodiment is obtained. The longitudinal grooves (8) may be replaced by a spiral groove. Any grooves which can fuction as the flow path for the working gas may be used.

Figure 11 illustrates still other alternative embodiment of this invention, in which the protrusions are made on the inner wall of the electrode insertion bore (3) to create the gap as the flow path for the working gas. To create the gap with protrusions (13), the

protrusions (13) may be made on the surface of the main body (7) of the electrode (2). Of course, the protrusions (13) may be made on both the electrode (2) and the bore (3), or the protrusions (13) may be combined with the circumferential grooves (4) or the longitudinal grooves (8).

(g) Merits of Invention

As described above, the torch of the present invention is constructed in such a way that the working gas is supplied along the outer surface of the electrode, making it possible to control the abnormal temperature elevation of the electrode. Therefore, its long sustained operation does not cause the burning of the electrode, and torch always injects the stable plasma. The roughening of cutting faces of the work piece is thus largely eliminated and the time-consuming post-cutting treatment is greatly reduced. The good results were obtained in the experiments conducted by the inventor. That is, conventionally the opening ahead of the electrode widens toward the tip in the shape of a countersink. In the torch of this invention, a very small opening at the tip can be used for consistently injecting concentrated plasma, and the life of the electrode is extended. In addition, the cooling effect for the entire torch can be increased by controlling the temperature elevation of the torch interior also, and consequently the life of the nozzle is extended to about five times that of the conventional nozzle.

4 Brief Description of Figures

Figure 1 is a sketch of one embodiment of the torch main body in the torch of the present invention; Fig. 2 is a sketch of the torch main body in a conventional torch; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the torch of the present invention in operating condition; Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of an alternative embodiment of this invention; Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of an alternative embodiment of the torch main body; Figs. 6 through 8 are sketches of additional alternative embodiments of this invention; Figs. 9 and 10 are longitudinal sections of more alternative embodiments; Fig. 11 is a broken-out view of still other alternative embodiment of the torch main body; and Fig. 12 is a sketch of still other alternative embodiment of the electrode.

T --- torch
1 --- torch main body
2 --- electrode
3 --- electrode insertion bore
5 --- pipe
6 --- hole
7 --- electrode main body
9 --- ridge
13 --- protrusion

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